

APPENDIX B. CONTINUED

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (PIRO)

Establishment: October 16, 1966.

Designations: National Lakeshore. Designated a Class II airshed.

Purpose and significance statements important to ecological monitoring:

- Preserve the diminishing shoreline of the United States and its related geographic and scientific features.
- 'Geographic and scientific features' include the multicolored sandstone cliffs that reach 200 feet above Lake Superior and extend along 12 of the 42 miles of shoreline.
- The Grande Sable Dunes, covering about 5 mi² are equally important.

General description: Pictured Rocks protects 71,397 acres of land including 42 miles of Lake Superior shoreline. The park is located along the south-central shore of Lake Superior within a transition zone between the boreal and eastern deciduous forest biomes. Hardwood forests are prevalent, but conifers dominate some sites. Wetlands are common throughout the park. The cold, moist climate along the lakeshore greatly influences the biotic communities. The park is divided into two distinct ownership and management zones; the federally owned shoreline zone, and a non-federal buffer zone. Sustained yield timber harvesting and other consumptive uses are allowed in the buffer zone; however, these uses were intended by Congress to be subordinate to public recreation and the protection of "the usefulness and attractiveness of the lakeshore."

Visitation and human uses: About 450,000 visitors reach the lakeshore annually, primarily to view the sandstone cliffs and sand dunes and to picnic and swim along the miles of beaches. The lakeshore is open to hunting and fishing, which is managed cooperatively with the state of Michigan; trapping is allowed only within the Inland Buffer Zone.

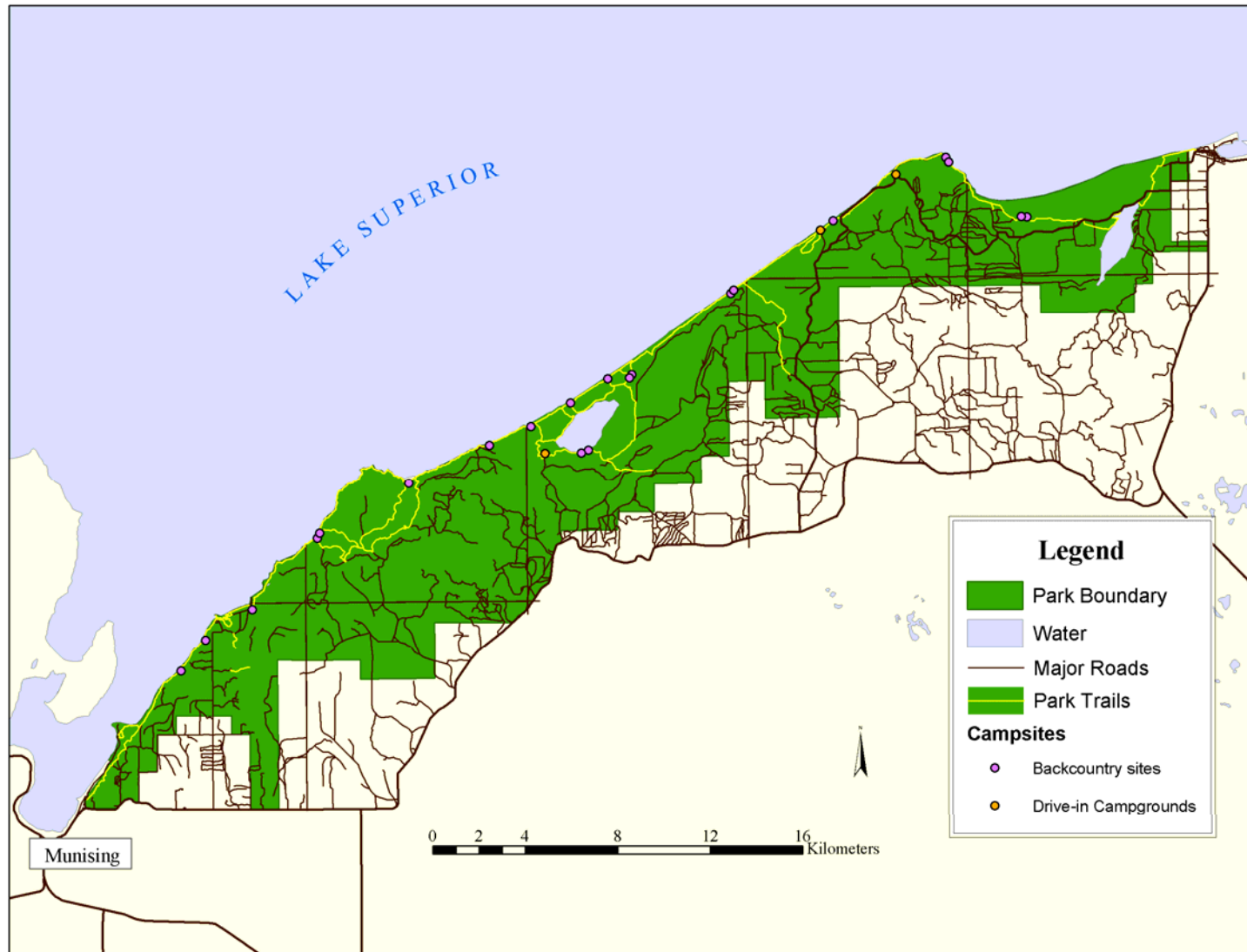
Critical resources: The park occasionally serves as a nesting area for the federally endangered piping plover. Attempts to reintroduce peregrine falcons occurred in 1989 and 1991 and pairs have been occasional summer residents with successful nests in 1994, 2001, and 2002. Protection of bald eagle nest sites is a high priority. Gray wolves are returning to the region, but packs are not known to reside in the park. The forested areas are slowly returning to pre-European settlement conditions and monitoring this progression is integral to understanding the terrestrial biotic communities. The Grand Sable Dunes contain important rare plant communities.

Primary threats: Airborne pollutants, waters known to be contaminated with relatively moderate levels of toxics, exotic plants and animals (aquatic and terrestrial), potentially harmful land use practices (e.g., timber harvest, development) in the Inland Buffer Zone and outside the boundary in the upper end of watersheds.

Important management documents: The General Management Plan was implemented in 1981 and a revision completed in 2003. A draft Resource Management Plan is in place.

For important park monitoring reports see Supplemental Document #3

APPENDIX B. CONTINUED



Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and surrounding area.